



Date of Council Meeting: February 13, 2006

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Subject: Amending Resolution 2001-39 to encompass the entire H-1 Historic District.

Staff Contact: Nagi Elsewaissi, P.E., Director of Capital Projects Management.

Recommendation: To establish a policy to underground the existing overhead utility lines within the H-1 District in a cost-effective approach.

Issue: Should the H-1 District, be designated an “Underground Utility Distribution District” and can undergrounding projects be funded in a cost-effective manner?

Background: Councilmember Susan Horne suggested establishing a policy to relocate the overhead utility lines underground in the H-1 District. In addition to the Town of Leesburg ordinance that requires burying utility lines for new developments, Resolution 2001-39 enacted a policy for placing the overhead utility lines underground on major thoroughfare based upon specific criteria. The proposed resolution would amend Resolution 2001-39 to encompass the entire H-1 District.

Franchise agreements need to be established or revised with utility providers in order to support the proposed amended resolution with the least cost burden to the Town. To date there are no legal standing franchise agreements with Dominion Virginia Power, Verizon or a license agreement with OnFiber to support cost-effective undergrounding projects. Thus, the Town Attorney will establish agreements with the utility companies that support cost-sharing for undergrounding projects.

While franchise agreements are being established or revised, there is a potential undergrounding project opportunity that can serve as the Town’s next undergrounding initiative. In 2000, some conduits were buried to support undergrounding on South King Street between the W&OD Trail and Fairfax Drive which may enable a cost-effective undergrounding project. In order to initiate this project, research is required on the existing facilities and initial design, verification of installation, as well as determination of additional needs in order to bury existing overhead utility lines. The one-year study, estimated at \$50,000, will provide a cost estimate which will identify if this is a cost-effective opportunity as well as next steps for this potential project.

Attachment: (1) Resolution No. 2001-39

cc: Barbara Beach, Town Attorney
 Susan Swift, Director of Planning, Zoning and Development
 Betsy Fields, Director of Economic Development
 Tom Mason, Director of Engineering and Public Works
 Calvin Grow, Traffic Engineer